

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSM-03 ACDA-07 IO-13
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01
/092 W

-----151502Z 090979 /41

P R 151400Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5741
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 2673

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, IS, XF
SUBJECT: PERES DISCUSSES PEACE NEGOTIATIONS

REF: TEL AVIV 2615

1. WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN IN CONFIDENCE BY THE CANADIAN EMBASSY A REPORT OF THE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN DEFENSE MINISTER PERES AND BARNETT DANSON, CANADIAN MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE. DANSON WAS VISITING CANADIAN PEACE-KEEPING FORCES IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND MET WITH PERES APRIL 11. PERES CHARACTERIZED HIMSELF TO DANSON AS "NOT A HAWK, BUT A REALIST WHO IS UNWILLING TO GLOSS OVER DIFFICULTIES WHICH EXIST."

2. PERES SAID HE SAW LITTLE POSSIBILITY OF MEANINGFUL NEGOTIATIONS FOR AN OVERALL PEACE AGREEMENT IN A GENEVA CONFERENCE SETTING. HOWEVER, EGYPT AND SYRIA MIGHT POSSIBLY BE INTERESTED IN FUTURE STEP-BY-STEP
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NEGOTIATIONS USING THE US AS AN INTERMEDIARY.

3. PERES WENT ON TO SAY THAT THIS STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH COULD PERHAPS BE PART OF OR ARISE FROM A GENEVA CONFERENCE, BUT WOULD BE ENTIRELY SEPARATE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE TWO COUNTRIES (ALTHOUGH "ON A COORDINATED BASIS"). HE CHARACTERIZED THE

POSSIBILITY OF SUCH NEGOTIATIONS AS THE ONLY RAY OF LIGHT IN AN OTHERWISE DARK FUTURE.

4. NEVERTHELESS, PERES SAID, HE WAS NOT OPPOSED TO A MIDDLE EAST PEACE CONFERENCE BUT ASKED RHETORICALLY WHAT THERE WAS TO TALK ABOUT IN VIEW OF THE ARAB INSISTENCE ON ISRAEL'S RETURN TO ITS 1967 BORDERS. HE DOES NOT SEE THAT INSISTENCE AS MERELY AN OPENING GAMBIT IN NEGOTIATIONS. ALL IN ALL, HE SAID, "ACROBATICS IN THE KISSINGER FASHION WILL PROBABLY PRODUCE MORE RESULTS THAN THE ARCHITECTURE OF BRZEZINSKI."

5. PERES TOLD DANSON THAT THE SOLUTION TO THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM IS A CONFEDERATION OF THE WEST BANK WITH JORDAN, WITH ISRAELI DEFENSE INSTALLATIONS ALONG THE JORDAN VALLEY. HE INSISTED THAT MOST WEST BANKERS PREFER A LINK WITH JORDAN TO AN INDEPENDENT PLO STATE. HUSSEIN, WHILE PAYING LIP SERVICE TO RABAT, WOULD NOT LIKE A PLO STATE ANY MORE THAN ISRAEL.

6. COMMENT: PERES HAS MADE CLEAR OVER RECENT MONTHS THAT HE PREFERS A CONTINUATION OF STEP-BY-STEP NEGOTIATIONS, PERHAPS STARTING WITH THE SYRIANS, RATHER THAN GENERAL GENEVA NEGOTIATIONS AIMING FOR AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT. THE ABOVE COMMENTS TO DANSON APPEAR TO BEAR OUT THAT PREFERENCE. WE WERE TOLD THAT IN REPORTING THIS DISCUSSION TO OTTAWA, THE CANADIAN AMBASSADOR

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COMMENTED THAT PERES IS "AN ADEPT POLITICIAN WHO KNOWS THE VALUE OF FLEXIBILITY."
DUNNIGAN

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